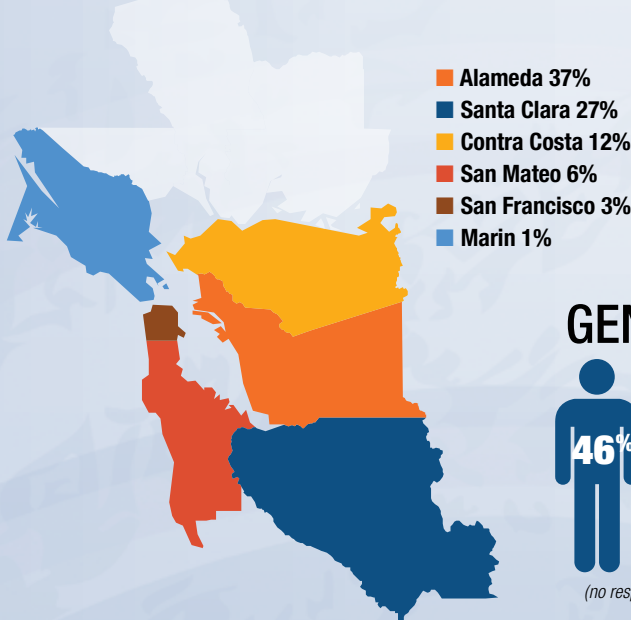


# BAY AREA MUSLIMS: A SNAPSHOT

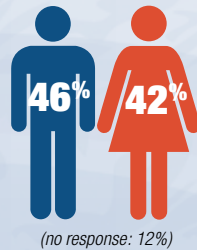
## DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

**THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA** boasts one of the United States' largest populations of Muslims. The estimated Bay Area Muslim population is 250,000 and is 3.5 percent of the area's total population. "The Bay Area Muslim Study: Establishing Identity and Community" is a first of its kind study of the Bay Area's Muslim community. For the full report, visit [www.ispu.org](http://www.ispu.org).

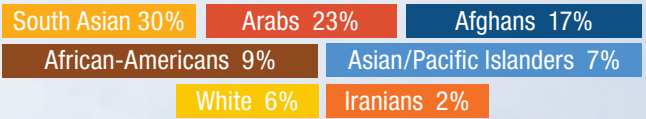
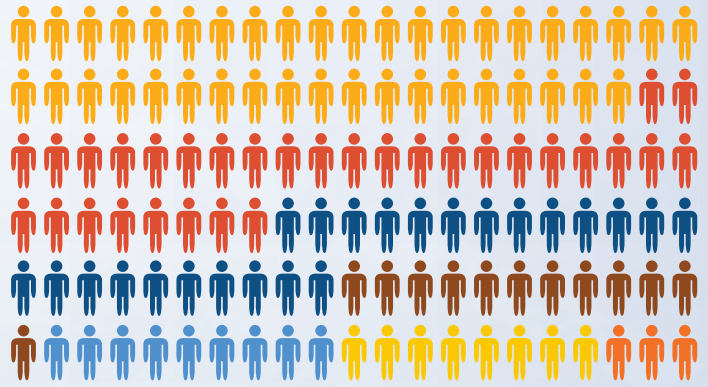
### BAY AREA COMMUNITY BY COUNTY



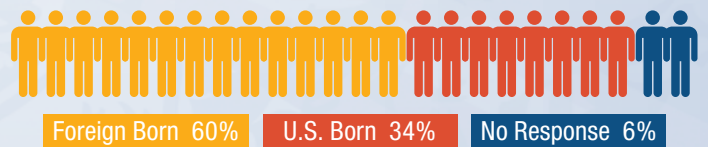
### GENDER



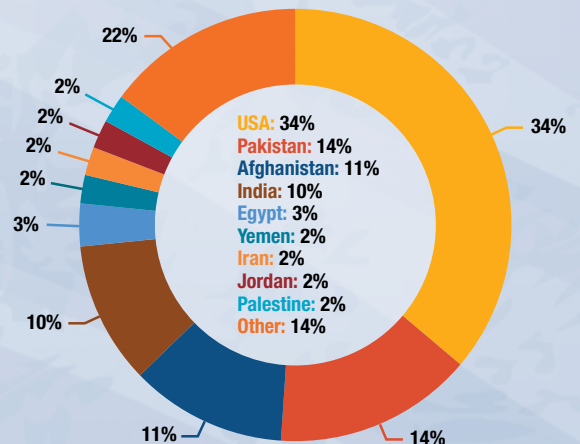
### ETHNIC BREAKDOWN



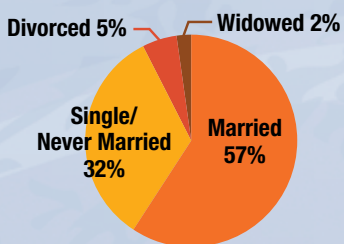
### FOREIGN BORN vs. U.S. BORN



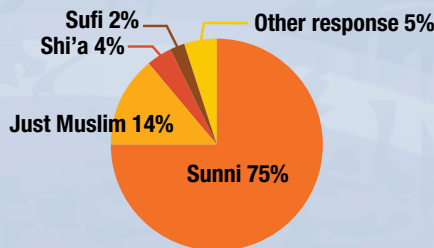
### COUNTRY OF BIRTH



### MARITAL STATUS



### RELIGIOUS IDENTITY



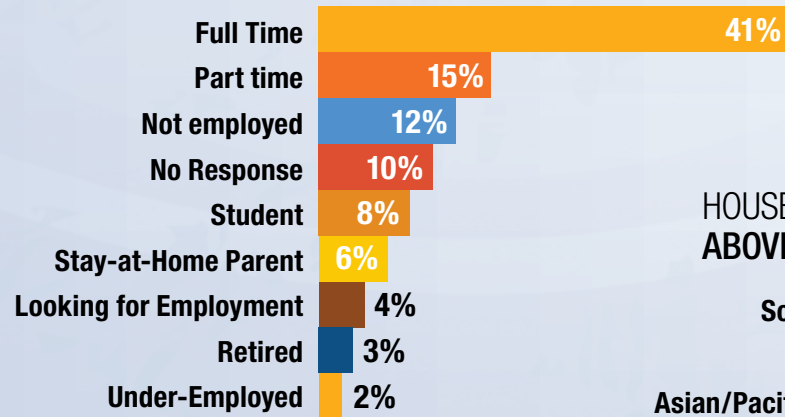
# BAY AREA MUSLIMS: A SNAPSHOT

## KEY STATISTICS

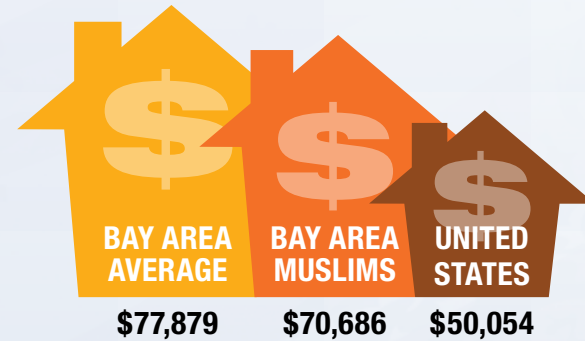
### SOCIOECONOMIC

**WHILE WE CELEBRATE** the economic success of some Muslims, it is important to note the challenges facing lower-income Muslims and those who are under or unemployed.

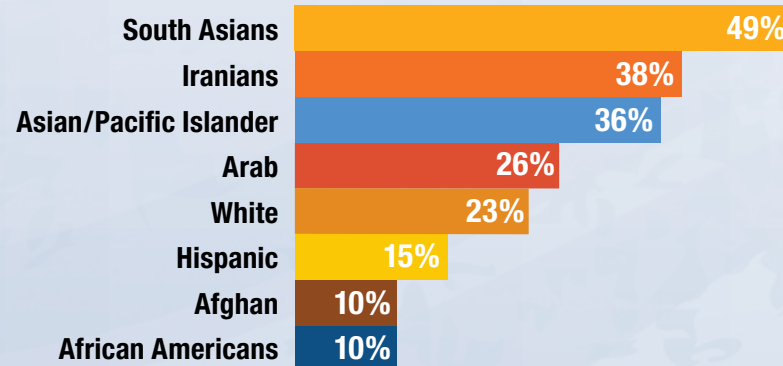
#### EMPLOYMENT STATUS



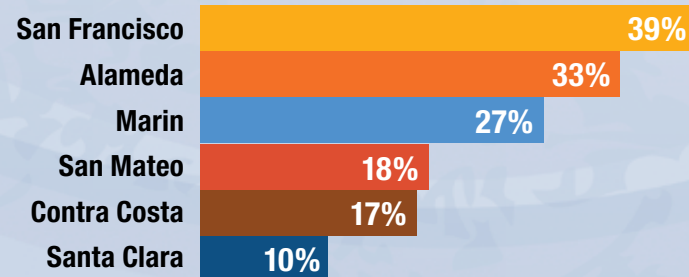
#### HOUSEHOLD INCOME: BAY AREA vs. MUSLIMS vs. U.S.



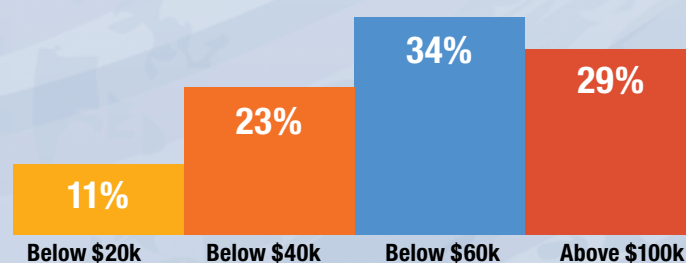
#### HOUSEHOLD INCOME ABOVE \$100,000 BY ETHNICITY



#### HOUSEHOLD INCOME BELOW \$40,000 BY COUNTY



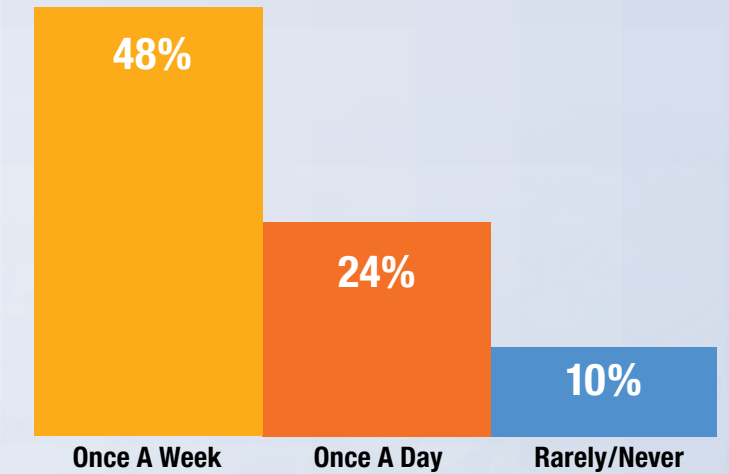
#### COMBINED HOUSEHOLD INCOME



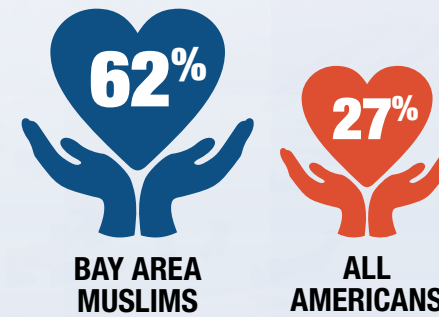
### VOLUNTEERISM

**MUCH OF THE DISCUSSION** in the national media has suggested that increasing levels of religiosity lead to isolation and disengagement. However, our survey suggested that Muslims who attend the mosque once a week were the most likely to volunteer in the past year (48%). Muslims who rarely or never attend the mosque were the least likely to volunteer (10%), whereas those who attend the mosque once a day or more were somewhere in the middle: 24 percent of them indicated that they had volunteered in the past year.

#### VOLUNTEERING BY MOSQUE ATTENDANCE



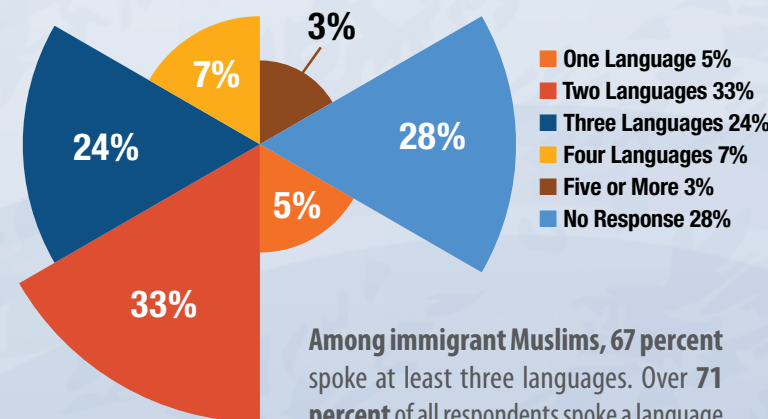
#### VOLUNTEERING IN THE PAST YEAR



### EDUCATION

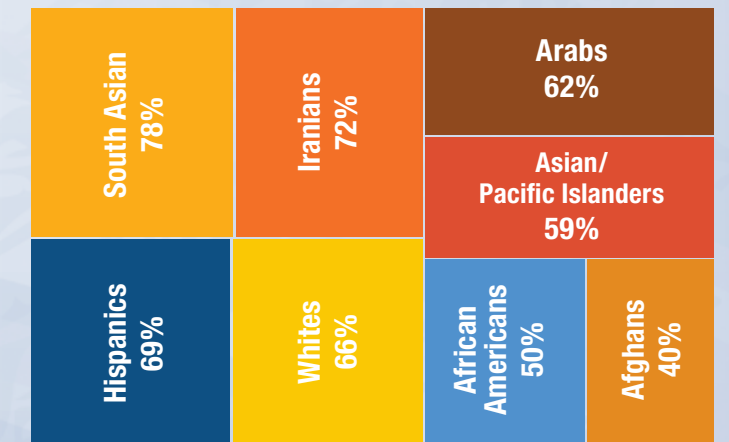
#### NUMBER OF LANGUAGES SPOKEN

(Among All Respondents)

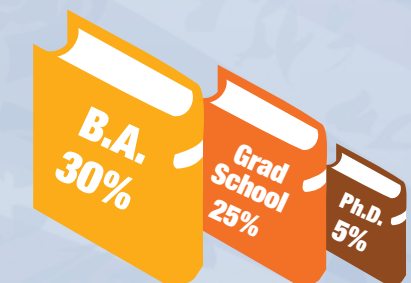


Among immigrant Muslims, 67 percent spoke at least three languages. Over 71 percent of all respondents spoke a language in addition to English.

#### HIGHER EDUCATION BY ETHNICITY (at least some college)

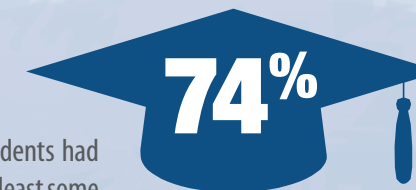


#### HIGHER EDUCATION: BAY AREA vs. NATIONAL



These numbers are higher than those for the general Bay Area population of which about 41 percent aged twenty-five or older have a B.A. (25.2%) or higher (16.3%). This also appears to be higher than the general public at the national level of which 28% reported having a B.A. or higher.

74 percent of respondents had completed between at least some college and graduate school.



# BAY AREA MUSLIMS: A SNAPSHOT

## OPPORTUNITIES & RECOMMENDATIONS

### STRENGTHS

**FOR THE BAY AREA MUSLIM** community strength is found in diversity and shared values.

#### The Un-harnessed Potential of Islamic Norms and Values

- **Community Building and Community Cohesion.** 92 percent of respondents expressed some level of religiosity.
- **Activism and Resilience.** Looking at the data as a whole, Muslims' resilient community-building efforts largely appear to be the product of a strong faith-based tradition of building institutions and a society that has – and continues to – contribute positively to bringing about a better world.

#### Additional Strengths to be Recognized and Further Research

- **Women.** No discussion of community strengths can be complete without recognizing that Muslim women have built a critical number of Muslim institutions. The existence of their efforts proves their ability to overcome both internal as well as external cultural, religious, and gender barriers.
- **Diversity.** As the survey shows, a solid segment of community members are highly educated, have cosmopolitan attitudes and behaviors, and have a certain linguistic prowess.

### CHALLENGES

**THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY** faces many internal and external challenges. While these challenges were strongly conveyed in the focus groups and interviews, they are not unique to the Bay Area; rather, they are representative of the various challenges being experienced by Muslims nationwide.

#### The External Challenges Include:

- Islamophobia
- Conflict Overseas
- Media Portrayals
- Muslims as “Double Minorities”

#### The Internal Challenges Include:

- Lack of Broad Vision and Planning
- Leadership Concerns and Limited Resources
- Regional Socioeconomic Disparities
- Challenges Related to Bay Area Muslim Women
- Lack of Engagement with Non-Muslims
- Cultural and Religious Obstacles
- Lack of Professional Development and Training

### RECOMMENDATIONS

**THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS** are based on the primary source data conducted during the course of our research, surveys, and focus groups. They are directed to community leaders and institutions, philanthropic and charitable foundations, and academic and policymaking circles.

#### Recommendations for Muslim Community Leaders and Institutions

1. Strengthen the community's institutional infrastructure. Invest in people, not property.
2. Empower women institutionally. Support women-run institutions and expand women's access to and inclusion in their organizations as equal partners.
3. Share existing knowledge and resources. The Bay Area community is diverse but also divided and resource-depleted.
4. Develop the skills and capacities for increased civic engagement and consistent external community engagement. Institutions should continue to support political participation, voter education drives, and “Get Out The Vote” efforts in a concerted fashion.
5. Reach out to disenfranchised/disenchanted Muslims. Many Muslims are highly religious, spiritual, pray, and fast during Ramadan; however, they feel that the Muslim institutions do not respond to their needs and concerns.

#### Recommendations for Foundations and Philanthropists

1. Commit to long-term investment that will empower the community
2. Facilitate opportunities for coalition building and collaboration with non-Muslim civic organizations
3. Support education and training programs on how to manage not-for-profit organizations, with emphasis on successful models
4. Train Muslim women seeking leadership positions in the non-profit sector
5. Support social and legal services for American Muslims
6. Pay special attention to immigration issues
7. Study Islamophobia in the context of other forms of bigotry and racism
8. Facilitate Intra-Muslim dialogue
9. Leverage high level of religiosity among community

#### Recommendations to Educators and Academics

1. Foster research and work focused on Muslim communities
2. Deepen understanding of Islam and Muslims among educators
3. Connect with communities outside the classroom

#### Recommendations to Policymakers

1. Facilitate platform to generate ideas for developing and choosing policies informed by expert opinion.
2. Challenge anti-Muslim narratives